BEFORE

THE PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION OF

SOUTH CAROLINA

DOCKET NO. 2009-380-C - ORDER NO. 2010-1

JANUARY 6, 2010

IN RE:	Application of Velocity The Greatest Phone)	ORDER APPROVING
	Company Ever, Incorporated for a Certificate)	CERTIFICATE
	of Public Convenience and Necessity for)	
	Authority to Operate as a Reseller of Local)	
	Exchange and Interexchange)	
	Telecommunications Services and for)	•
	Alternative Regulation)	

This matter comes before the Public Service Commission of South Carolina (the "Commission") by way of the Application of Velocity The Greatest Phone Company Ever, Inc. ("Applicant", "Velocity" or the "Company") for authority to provide local exchange and interexchange telecommunications services within the State of South Carolina (the "Certification Application"). Further, the Company requests that the Commission regulate its local retail telecommunications services in accordance with the principles and procedures established for flexible regulation in Order No. 98-165 in Docket No. 97-467-C. In addition, the Company requests that the Commission regulate its business interexchange service offerings under modified alternative regulation as set forth in Order Nos. 95-1734 and 96-55 in Docket No. 95-661-C.

The Company's Application was filed pursuant to S.C. Code Ann. Section 58-9-280, S.C. Code Ann. Section 58-9-585 and the Rules and Regulations of the Commission. By letter, the Commission instructed the Applicant to publish, one time, a prepared Notice of Filing in newspapers of general circulation in the areas affected by the

Application. The purpose of the Notice of Filing was to inform interested parties of the manner and time in which to file the appropriate pleadings for participation in the proceeding. The Company complied with this instruction and provided the Commission with proof of publication of the Notice of Filing. Petitions to Intervene were received from the South Carolina Telephone Coalition ("SCTC") and Home Telecom, Inc./Home Telephone Company, Inc. ("Home"). Subsequently, counsel for SCTC filed a Stipulation with the Commission; the SCTC withdrew its opposition to the granting of a statewide Certificate of Public Convenience and Necessity to the Company provided the conditions contained in the Stipulation are met. The Stipulation is approved and attached as Order Exhibit 1.

A hearing commenced on December 14, 2009, at 11:30 a.m. in the Commission's Law Library. The Honorable F. David Butler, Hearing Examiner, presided. Scott Elliott, Esquire, represented the Company. Nanette S. Edwards, Esquire, represented the Office of Regulatory Staff ("ORS"). Margaret M. Fox, Esquire represented SCTC and Home. Chip Werner, the Applicant's President, appeared and testified in support of the Application.

At the outset of the hearing, Home and Velocity introduced a Stipulation into the record. Home withdrew its opposition to the granting of a statewide Certificate of Public Convenience and Necessity to the Company provided the conditions contained in the Stipulation are met. This Stipulation is approved and attached as Order Exhibit 2.

According to the record, Velocity is a Delaware Corporation. The Applicant has received authority from the South Carolina Secretary of State to transact business within

the State of South Carolina. According to Mr. Werner, the Company will provide resold local exchange telecommunications services and resold interexchange telecommunications services. The Applicant's services will be marketed and provided primarily to national business customers and will offer such services on a twenty-four hour a day, seven (7) day-a-week basis. Mr. Werner further testified regarding the managerial experience of the Company's executives as well as the financial status of the Mr. Werner also testified that the Company had substantial financial Company. resources to ensure the viability of the Company. Finally, Mr. Werner testified that granting the Application will introduce a telecommunications service provider committed providing high-quality and advanced services that will further increase telecommunications competition in the State of South Carolina. He opined that the Commission's granting of the Application is therefore in the public interest.

Mr. Werner stated that the Company will abide by all applicable Commission rules, regulations and Orders upon the Company receiving certification to provide intrastate interexchange and local exchange telecommunications services in South Carolina. Mr. Werner also asserted that the service provided by the Company will meet the service requirements of this Commission.

The Applicant requested certain waivers of Commission regulations. The Company requests that it be exempt from any rules or regulations that would require it to keep financial records in conformance with the Uniform System of Accounts ("USOA"). Additionally, the Company seeks a waiver of S.C. Code Ann. Regs. 103-631 so that it will not be required to publish local exchange directories. The Company will contract

with incumbent local exchange carriers for the inclusion of the Company's CLEC databases into the master customer database of the local exchange carrier. The Applicant also requested that the Company be granted a waiver of 26 S.C. Code Ann Regs. 103-610, so that the Company may be permitted to maintain its records outside of South Carolina. The Company wishes to maintain its books and records at its principal place of business. Last, since the Applicant's local exchange calling areas will initially mirror the service area of the incumbent local exchange carriers, the Company requested a waiver of the map filing requirement of 26 S.C. Code Ann. Regs. 103-612.2.3.

After full consideration of the applicable law, the Company's Application, and the evidence presented at the hearing, the Commission hereby issues its findings of fact and conclusions of law:

FINDINGS OF FACT

- 1. The Company is a duly organized limited liability company which exists under the laws of the State of Delaware and has been authorized to do business in the State of South Carolina by the Secretary of State.
- 2. The Company is a provider of local exchange and interexchange telecommunications services and wishes to provide its services in South Carolina.
- 3. The Company has the managerial, technical, and financial resources to provide the services as described in its Application. S.C. Code Ann. Section 58-9-280 (B)(1).
- 4. The Commission finds that the Company's "provision of service will not adversely impact the availability of affordable local exchange service." S.C. Code Ann. Section 58-9-280 (B)(3).

- 5. The Commission finds that the Company will support universally available telephone service at affordable rates. S.C. Code Ann. Section 58-9-280 (B)(4).
- 6. The Commission finds that the services to be provided by the Company will meet the service standards of the Commission. S.C. Code Ann. Section 58-9-280 (B)(2).
- 7. The Commission finds that the provision of local exchange service by the Company "does not otherwise adversely impact the public interest." S.C. Code Ann. Section 58-9-280 (B)(5).

CONCLUSIONS OF LAW

- 1. The Commission concludes that the Company possesses the managerial, technical, and financial resources to provide the competitive local exchange and interexchange telecommunications services as described in the Application.
- 2. The Commission concludes that the Company's "provision of service will not adversely impact the availability of affordable local exchange service."
- 3. The Commission concludes that the Company will participate in the support of universally available telephone service at affordable rates to the extent that the Company may be required to do so by the Commission.
- 4. The Commission concludes that the Company will provide services that will meet the service standards of the Commission.
- 5. The Commission concludes that the provision of local exchange services by the Company will not otherwise adversely impact the public interest.
- 6. Based on the above findings of fact and conclusions of law, the Commission determines that a statewide Certificate of Public Convenience and Necessity should be

granted to the Company to provide competitive local exchange services. The terms of the Stipulations between the Company and SCTC and the Company and Home are approved and adopted as a part of this Order. In particular, any proposal to provide local telecommunications service to rural service areas is therefore subject to the terms of the Stipulations. In addition, the Company is granted authority to provide interexchange telecommunications service through the resale of services offered by other carriers approved by the Commission.

- 7. The Commission concludes the Company's local exchange telecommunications services shall be regulated in accordance with the principles and procedures established for flexible regulation first granted to NewSouth Communications by Order No. 98-165 in Docket No. 97-467-C. Specifically, the Commission adopts for the Company's competitive intrastate local exchange services a rate structure incorporating maximum rate levels with the flexibility for adjustment below the maximum rate levels that will have been previously approved by the Commission. Further, the Company's local exchange service tariff filings are presumed valid upon filing, subject to the Commission's right within thirty (30) days to institute an investigation of the tariff filing, in which case the tariff filing would be suspended pending further Order of the Commission. Further, any such tariff filings will be subject to the same monitoring process as similarly situated competitive local exchange carriers.
- 8. The Commission adopts a rate design for the long distance services of the Company consistent with the principles and procedures established for alternative

regulation of business service offerings set out in Order Nos. 95-1734 and 96-55 in Docket No. 95-661-C and modified by Order No. 2001-997.

- Under the Commission approved modified alternative regulation, the business 9. service offerings of the Company, including consumer card services and operator services, are subject to a relaxed regulatory scheme identical to that granted to AT&T Communications in Order Nos. 95-1734 and 96-55 in Docket No. 1995-661-C. However, pursuant to Order No. 2001-997 (Docket No. 2000-407-C), this Commission has modified alternative regulation by the re-imposition of rate caps with regard to certain "operator-assisted calls" where a customer uses a incumbent local exchange carrier's calling card to complete calls from locations which have not selected that local exchange carrier as the toll provider. Order No. 2001-997, dated November 8, 2001, imposed a maximum cap of \$1.75 for operator surcharges for such calls, and a maximum cap of \$0.35 related to the flat per-minute rate associated with these calls. Under this relaxed regulatory scheme, tariff filings for business services shall be presumed valid The Commission will have seven (7) days in which to institute an upon filing. investigation of any tariff filing. If the Commission institutes an investigation of a particular tariff filing within the seven days, the tariff filing will then be suspended until further Order of the Commission. Any relaxation in the future reporting requirements that may be adopted for AT&T shall apply to the Company also.
- 10. With regard to the residential interexchange service offerings of the Company, the Commission adopts a rate design that includes only maximum rate levels for each tariff charge. The Commission has previously adopted a rate structure incorporating maximum

rate levels. <u>In Re: Application of GTE Sprint Communications Corporation</u>, etc. Order No. 84-622, issued in Docket No. 1984-10-C (August 2, 1984).

- 11. With regard to residential interexchange service rates, the Company shall not adjust its residential interexchange service rates below the approved maximum levels without notice to the Commission and to the public. The Company shall file its proposed rate changes, publish notice of such changes, and file affidavits of publication with the Commission two weeks prior to the effective date of the changes. However, the public notice requirement is waived, and therefore not required, for reductions below the maximum cap in instances that do not affect the general body of subscribers or do not constitute a general rate reduction, In Re: Application of GTE Sprint Communications. etc. Order No. 93-638, issued in Docket No. 1984-10-C (July 16, 1993). Any proposed increase in the maximum rate level for residential interexchange services reflected in the tariff which would be applicable to the general body of the Company's subscribers shall constitute a general ratemaking proceeding and will be treated in accordance with the notice and hearing provisions of S.C. Code Ann. §58-9-540.
- 12. We conclude that the Applicant's request for waiver of 26 S.C. Code Ann. Regs. 103-610 should be granted, since strict compliance with the regulation potentially causes undue hardship on the Company. We also grant exemption from the policies requiring the use of USOA. In addition, we grant waiver of 26 S.C. Code Ann. Regs. 103-631, which requires publication and distribution of a local telephone directory. Last, we grant a waiver of 26 S.C. Code Ann. Regs. 103-612.2.3, which requires filing a map of the service territory.

IT IS THEREFORE ORDERED, ADJUDGED AND DECREED THAT:

- 1. A Certificate of Public Convenience and Necessity is granted to Velocity to provide competitive local exchange and interexchange telecommunications services.
- 2. The terms of the Stipulations between the Company and the SCTC and the Company and Home are approved and adopted as part of this Order. The Stipulations are attached as Order Exhibit 1 and Order Exhibit 2, respectively. Any proposal to provide competitive local exchange telecommunications services to rural service areas is subject to the terms of the Stipulations.
- 3. The Company shall file, prior to offering local exchange services in South Carolina, an electronic version of its local service tariff with the Commission and ORS within 30 days of receipt of this Order.
- 4. The Company shall file, prior to offering interexchange services in South Carolina, an electronic version of its long distance tariff with the Commission and ORS within 30 days of receipt of this Order.
- 5. The Company is subject to access charges pursuant to Commission Order No. 86-584, in which the Commission determined that, for access charge purposes, resellers should be treated similarly to facilities-based interexchange carriers.
- 6. With regard to the Company's interexchange services, an end-user should be able to access another interexchange carrier or operator service provider if the end-user so desires.
- 7. To the extent the Company resells interexchange services, the Company shall resell the services of only those interexchange carriers or LECs authorized to do business

in South Carolina by this Commission. If the Company changes underlying carriers, it shall notify the Commission in writing.

- 8. With regard to the origination and termination of toll calls within the same LATA, the Company shall comply with the terms of Order No. 93-462, Order Approving Stipulation and Agreement, in Docket Nos. 1992-182-C, 1992-183-C, and 1992-200-C (June 3,1993), with the exception of the 10-XXX intraLATA dialing requirement, which has been rendered obsolete by the toll dialing parity rules established by the Federal Communications Commission ("FCC"), pursuant to the Telecommunications Act of 1996 (See 47 CFR 51.209). Specifically, the Company shall comply with the imputation standard as adopted by Order No. 93-462 and more fully described in paragraph 4 of the Stipulation and Appendix B approved by Order No. 93-462.
- 9. To the extent the Company may provide end user retail services, Velocity shall be required to comply with Title 23, Chapter 47, South Carolina Code of Laws Annotated which governs the establishment and implementation of a "Public Safety Communications Center," which is more commonly known as a "911 system" or "911 service." Services available through a 911 system include law enforcement, fire, and emergency medical services. In recognition of the necessity of quality 911 services being provided to the citizens of South Carolina, the Commission hereby instructs the Company to contact the appropriate authorities regarding 911 service in the counties and cities where the Company will be operating. Contact with the appropriate authorities is to be made before providing voice or dial tone telephone service in South Carolina. Accompanying this Order is a memo from the State 911 Office at the Office of Research

- & Statistics of the South Carolina Budget and Control Board. This memo provides information about contacting County 911 Coordinators. By this Order and prior to providing voice or dial-tone services within South Carolina, the Applicant is directed to contact the 911 Coordinator in each county, as well as the 911 Coordinator in each city where the city has its own 911 system, and shall provide information regarding the Company's operations as required by the 911 system.
- 10. If it has not already done so by the date of issuance of this Order, Velocity shall file its revised tariff utilizing the Commission's e-filing system for tariffs. The revised tariff should be electronically filed in a text searchable PDF format using the commission's DMS System (http://dms.psc.sc.gov). An additional copy should be sent via email to etariff@psc.sc.gov to be included in the Commission's ETariff System (http://etariff.psc.sc.gov). Future revisions to the tariff should be made using the ETariff System. The revised tariff shall be consistent with the findings of this Order and shall be consistent with the Commission's Rules and Regulations.
- 11. The Applicant shall file annual financial information in the form of annual reports and gross receipts reports as required by the Commission. The annual report and the gross receipt report will necessitate the filing of South Carolina specific information. Therefore, the Company shall keep financial records on its South Carolina operations to comply with the annual report and gross receipts filings. The proper form for filing annual financial information can be found at the Commission's website or at the ORS's website at www.regulatorystaff.sc.gov. The title of this form is "Telecommunications Company Annual Report." This form shall be utilized by the Applicant to file annual

financial information as directed by the Commission or ORS and shall be filed no later than April 1st.

Commission gross receipts forms are due to be filed no later than August 31st of each year. The proper form for filing gross receipts information can be found at the ORS website www.regulatorystaff.sc.gov and the appropriate form is entitled "Gross Receipts Form."

Each telecommunications company certified in South Carolina is required to file annually with the ORS the South Carolina Universal Service Fund Contribution ("USF") worksheet, which may be found on the ORS's website at www.regulatorystaff.sc.gov. This worksheet provides ORS information required to determine each telecommunications company's liability to the State USF fund. The State USF worksheet is due to be filed annually no later than July 1st with the ORS.

12. The Company shall, in compliance with Commission regulations, designate and maintain an authorized utility representative who is prepared to discuss, on a regulatory level, customer relations (complaint) matters, engineering operations, tests, and repairs. In addition, the Company shall provide to the Commission and ORS in writing the name of the authorized representative to be contacted in connection with general management duties as well as emergencies which occur during non-office hours. Velocity shall file the names, addresses, and telephone numbers of these representatives with the Commission and ORS within thirty (30) days of receipt of this Order. The "Authorized Utility Representative Information" form can be found at the ORS website as www.regulatorystaff.sc.gov: this form shall be utilized for the provision of this

information to the Commission and ORS. Further, the Company shall promptly notify the Commission and ORS in writing if the representatives are replaced. If the company changes or modifies its name, the Company shall file such changes with the Commission for approval.

- 13. The Company shall conduct its businesses in compliance with Commission decisions and Orders, both past and future.
- By its Application, the Company requested a waiver of 26 S.C. Code Ann. Regs. 14. 103-631. The Commission finds the Company's requests reasonable and grants the requested waiver of the application of 26 S.C. Code Ann. Regs. 103-631. Further, the Company is granted a waiver of 26 S.C. Code Ann. Regs. 103-610 requiring the Company to maintain its financial books and records within the State of South Carolina. However, as a condition of being granted a waiver of the requirement to maintain corporate books and records within the State of South Carolina, Velocity is authorized to maintain its books and records at its principal place of business, and Velocity shall make such books and records available, at the Company's expense, to the Commission staff or the Office of Regulatory Staff upon request. Further, the Company is granted a waiver of the requirement that books and records be maintained in accordance with the Uniform Systems of Accounts ("USOA"). Last, the Commission grants the Applicant's request for the waiver of the requirement that it file a map of its service territory as required by 26 S.C. Code Ann. Regs. 103-612.2.3. The Company is directed to comply with all Rules and Regulations of the Commission, unless the Commission specifically waives compliance with a regulation.

15. Velocity shall engage in good faith negotiations with non-AT&T incumbent local

exchange carriers whose networks interconnect with AT&T at the same local tandem for

traffic exchange.

16. Velocity shall comply with South Carolina Regulation 103-607 in that they will

obtain a bond, irrevocable letter of credit, or certificate of deposit per the Commission's

requirements if the company provides pre-paid local exchange services.

17. Velocity agrees that it will allow an end-user of resold services to access an

alternative interexchange carrier or operator service provider if the end-user expresses

such a desire.

18. Velocity shall resell the services only of those local exchange and interexchange

carriers authorized to do business in South Carolina by the Commission.

19. Velocity shall obtain Commission approval and post a surety bond in the amount

of \$5,000 should the company offer prepaid calling card or long distance services in the

future.

20. This Order shall remain in full force and effect until further Order of the

Commission.

BY ORDER OF THE COMMISSION:

Elizabeth B. Fleming, Chairman

Disabeth B. Tlening

ATTEST:

John E. Howard, Vice Chairman

(SEAL)

STATE OF SOUTH CAROLINA State Budget and Control Board

OFFICE OF RESEARCH & STATISTICS

MARK SANFORD, CHAIRMAN GOVERNOR

GRADY L. PATTERSON, JR. STATE TREASURER

RICHARD ECKSTROM COMPTROLLER GENERAL



REMBERT C. DENNIS BUILDING 1000 ASSEMBLY STREET, SUITE 425 COLUMBIA, SOUTH CAROLINA 29201

> **Bobby Bowers** DIRECTOR

HUGH K. LEATHERMAN, SR. CHAIRMAN, SENATE FINANCE COMMITTEE

ROBERT W. HARRELL, JR. CHAIRMAN, WAYS AND MEANS COMMITTEE

FRANK W. FUSCO EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

August 2, 2004

To: Telephone Companies New to South Carolina

In an effort to continue providing quality emergency services to the citizens of South Carolina, the State 911 Office requests that before beginning telephone services in a county, you contact the 911 Coordinator in that county. This will allow both parties to obtain important information about providing 911 services in that county. If you have already begun services, then contact the coordinator as soon as possible.

A list of County 911 Coordinators can be found on the South Carolina E911 homepage at www.ors.state.sc.us/digital/E-911.ASP. If you have any questions related to 911 in South Carolina, you may contact E911 Coordinations at the Office of Research and Statistics at 803-734-3883. The person responsible for this can also be found on the 911 homepage. Please be aware that some cities may have their own E911 systems, these are also listed on the 911 homepage. These city coordinators will need to be contacted in addition to the county coordinators.

DIGITAL CARTOGRAPHY

(803)734-3802

ECONOMIC RESEARCH

WILLIAM GILLESPIE

(803) 734-3805

BEFORE

THE PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION OF SOUTH CAROLINA

Docket No. 2009-380-C

Re:	Application of Velocity The Greatest Phone)	
	Company Ever, Inc., for a Certificate of Public)	
	Convenience and Necessity to Provide Resold)	
	Local Exchange and Interexchange Telecommu-)	STIPULATION
	nication Services in the State of South Carolina)	
)	

The South Carolina Telephone Coalition ("SCTC") (see attachment "A" for list of companies) and Velocity The Greatest Phone Company Ever, Inc. ("Velocity") hereby enter into the following stipulations. As a consequence of these stipulations and conditions, SCTC does not oppose Velocity's Application. SCTC and Velocity stipulate and agree as follows:

- 1. SCTC does not oppose the granting of a statewide Certificate of Public Convenience and Necessity to Velocity, provided the South Carolina Public Service Commission ("Commission") makes the necessary findings to justify granting of such a certificate, and provided the conditions contained within this stipulation are met.
- 2. Velocity stipulates and agrees that any Certificate which may be granted will authorize Velocity to provide service only to customers located in non-rural local exchange company ("LEC") service areas of South Carolina, except as provided herein.
- 3. Velocity stipulates that it is not asking the Commission to make a finding at this time regarding whether competition is in the public interest for rural areas.
- 4. Velocity stipulates and agrees that it will not provide any local service, by its own facilities or otherwise, to any customer located in a rural incumbent LEC's service area, unless and until Velocity provides such rural incumbent LEC and the Commission with written notice of its

intent to do so at least thirty (30) days prior to the date of the intended service. During such notice period, the rural incumbent LEC will have the opportunity to petition the Commission to exercise all rights afforded it under Federal and State law. Also, Velocity acknowledges that the Commission may suspend the intended date for service in rural LEC territory for ninety (90) days while the Commission conducts any proceeding incident to the Petition or upon the Commission's own Motion, provided that the Commission can further suspend the implementation date upon showing of good cause.

- 5. Velocity stipulates and agrees that, if Velocity gives notice that it intends to serve a customer located in a rural incumbent LEC's service area, and either (a) the Commission receives a Petition from the rural incumbent LEC to exercise its rights under Federal or State law within such 30-day period, or (b) the Commission institutes a proceeding of its own, then Velocity will not provide service to any customer located within the service area in question without prior and further Commission approval.
- 6. Velocity acknowledges that any right which it may have or acquire to serve a rural telephone company service area in South Carolina is subject to the conditions contained herein, and to any future policies, procedures, and guidelines relevant to such proposed service which the Commission may implement, so long as such policies, procedures, and guidelines do not conflict with Federal or State law.
- 7. The parties stipulate and agree that all rights under Federal and State law are reserved to the rural incumbent LECs and Velocity, and this Stipulation in no way suspends or adversely affects such rights, including any exemptions, suspensions, or modifications to which they may be entitled.
- 8. Velocity agrees to abide by all State and Federal laws and to participate, to the extent it may be required to do so by the Commission, in the support of universally available telephone service at affordable rates.

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> Velocity hereby amends its application and its prefiled testimony in this docket to the 9. extent necessary to conform with this Stipulation.

AGREED AND STIPULATED to this 5th day of November,

2009.

Velocity The Greatest Phone Company Ever,

Scott Elliott, Esquire Elliott & Elliott, P.A.

721 Olive Street

Columbia, South Carolina 29205

(803) 771-0555

Attorneys for Applicant Velocity The Greatest Phone Company Ever, Inc.

South Carolina Telephone Coalition:

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Attorneys for the South Carolina Telephone Coalition

January 6, 2010

ATTACHMENT A

South Carolina Telephone Coalition Member Companies for Purposes of Local Service Stipulation

Chesnee Telephone Company

Chester Telephone Company

Farmers Telephone Cooperative, Inc.

Ft. Mill Telephone Company

Home Telephone Company, Inc.

Lancaster Telephone Company

Lockhart Telephone Company

McClellanville Telephone Company

Norway Telephone Company

Palmetto Rural Telephone Cooperative, Inc.

Piedmont Rural Telephone Cooperative, Inc.

Pond Branch Telephone Company

Ridgeway Telephone Company

Rock Hill Telephone Company

Sandhill Telephone Cooperative, Inc.

St. Stephen Telephone Company

West Carolina Rural Telephone Cooperative, Inc.

Williston Telephone Company

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BEFORE THE PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION OF SOUTH CAROLINA

Docket No. 2009-380-C

In the Matter of Application of Velocity The Greatest)	
Phone Company Ever, Inc. for a Certificate of Public)	
Convenience and Necessity to Provide Interexchange)	STIPULATION
and Local Exchange Telecommunications Services and)	
for Flexible and Alternative Regulation of Local and)	
Interexchange Service Offerings)	
)	

This Stipulation (the "Agreement") is entered into as of the date set forth below (the "Effective Date"), by and between Velocity The Greatest Phone Company Ever ("Velocity") and Home Telecom, Inc./Home Telephone Company, Inc. ("Home") (collectively the "Parties"). The Parties hereby enter into the following stipulations.

WHEREAS, Home is the owner of the trademark and service mark rights, and accompanying South Carolina registration, in the mark VELOCITY (the "Mark") in association with telecommunications goods and services;

WHEREAS, Velocity has filed with the South Carolina Public Service Commission an application for certificate of public convenience and necessity to provide telecommunication services in South Carolina, including in Charleston, Berkeley, and Dorchester counties (the "Territory");

WHEREAS, Home opposes the granting of the certificate in Docket No. 2009-380-C (the "Opposition");

WHEREAS, Velocity represents that it has no intention of using the Mark in the Territory for so long an Home maintains rights in the Mark;

WHEREAS, the Parties are willing to resolve the Opposition under the following terms and conditions:

NOW THEREFORE, in consideration of the mutual covenants contained herein and the exchange of other good and valuable consideration, the receipt and sufficiency of which is hereby acknowledged, the Parties agree to the following:

- 1. The Parties agree that the recitals above are a part of and binding upon the Parties and form a part of the Agreement. The Parties guarantee and warrant that the representations stated herein are true and correct and that the Parties have relied upon these representations to enter into this Agreement.
- 2. Velocity agrees that for so long as Home enjoys its trademark and service mark rights in the Mark in the Territory, Velocity will not use the Mark in the Territory, or any confusing similar mark, in association with telecommunications goods or services;
- 3. Home agrees that upon execution by both Parties of the Agreement, it will withdraw its opposition to Velocity's application for a certificate of public convenience and necessity in SC Public Service Commission Docket No. 2009-380-C.
- 4. The Parties agree that any breach of this agreement by Velocity will allow Home any and all available remedies, including Home's right to commence litigation for trademark or service mark infringement. Furthermore, Home reserves its right to request appropriate action be taken by the Public Service Commission of South Carolina, including but not limited to

revocation of Velocity's certificate, in the event Velocity's provision of service in South Carolina results in trademark or service mark infringement.

- 5. This Agreement shall be binding upon all the Parties to this agreement, their heirs, successors, and assigns. This Agreement shall have no effect whatsoever until such time as it is fully executed by all Parties hereto.
- 6. This Agreement shall not be modified except if reduced to writing and executed by all Parties. This Agreement and all documents incorporated by reference contain the entire agreement between the Parties. All previous negotiations and discussions are null and void, and the only terms agreed upon are those expressly included in this Agreement.
- 7. All Parties are responsible for their own fees and costs associated with the Opposition and the negotiation and execution of this Agreement.
- 8. In the event that legal action is necessary to enforce any breach of this Agreement, the prevailing party shall have the right to all costs and expense, including reasonable attorney fees, from the other party.
- 9. This Agreement constitutes a fully negotiated agreement among reasonably sophisticated Parties, each assisted by legal counsel, and the terms of the Agreement shall not be construed or interpreted for or against any party on the basis or presumption that such party was the drafter of this Agreement. The rule of contract construction provides that ambiguities are resolved against the drafter shall not apply to any provision of this Agreement.
- 10. The signatures to this Agreement may be evidenced by facsimile or electronic copies reflecting the Party's signature hereto, and any such facsimile or electronic copy shall be

sufficient to evidence the signature of such Party just as if it were an original signature. This

Agreement may be executed simultaneously in multiple counterparts, each of which shall be
deemed an original, but all of which taken together shall constitute one and the same instrument.

The parties mutually agree to accept the other party's facsimile or electronic signature of this

Agreement, and to be bound by its own facsimile or electronic signature of this Agreement.

- 11. This agreement shall be construed under the law of South Carolina, without regard to the choice of laws provisions. The Parties agree to the exclusive jurisdiction of the state and federal courts of Charleston County and/or the administrative agencies of the state of South Carolina for any action arising from or involving this agreement.
- 12. Velocity hereby amends its application and its prefiled testimony in this docket to the extent necessary to conform with this Agreement.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, the Parties have caused this Agreement to be signed by their duly authorized corporate officers. The Parties warrant that they have read and understand this Agreement, they voluntarily agree to and have signed the Agreement, they are not relying upon any inducements, representations, agreement, or understandings other than as are set forth herein, and that they are acting with full advice of and explanation by their respective legal counsel.

AGREED AND STIPULATED to this _______day of December, 2009.

Velocity The Greatest Phone Company Ever

Home Telecom, Inc. and Home Telephone Company, Inc.

By: William D. Werner

Its: Vice President - Operations

By: H. Keith Oliver

Its: Senior VP Corporate Operations

Docket No. 2009-380-C Order No. 2010-1 January 6, 2010

AGREED AND STIPULATED to this 14th day of December, 2009.

Velocity The Greatest Phone Company Ever

Home Telecom, Inc. and Home

Telephone Company, Inc.

By:

Its:

By: H. Keith Oliver

Its: Senior VP Corporate Operations